

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-0026

Thomas Hartley House

8621 Wrights Mill Road

Baltimore, Baltimore County

1800

Private

The Thomas Hartley House, constructed near the town of Granite in 1800, is well representative of the many vernacular stone houses constructed throughout Baltimore County in the early 19th century. Granite, in the Second District, is located along Old Court Road, just north of the Patapsco Falls. The district covers 44.79 square-miles and was historically known for its fertile soils, chrome mines, and abundant granite quarries. The quarries within the southern portion of the district gave the town its name. The waterpower from the nearby Patapsco River and Falls also contributed to a number of manufacturing outlets, including the Valley G&S Mill, the Alberton Cotton Mills, and the Alberton Manufacturing Company. Thus the area became one of the most flourishing in the county. By the 1870s, Granite had reached a population of over 500 in the 1870s. It was during this 19th century period that Hartley family, of Quaker heritage, constructed the Thomas Hartley House. This is one of three extant dwellings in the immediate area that are associated with the Hartley family. The setting of the Thomas Hartley House has remained rural through the late 20th century.

The Thomas Hartley House is a two-and-a-half-story vernacular dwelling of solid random rubble stone construction with a side gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. Two interior stretcher bond brick chimneys rise from the gable ends of the building. The façade, or northwest elevation, of the three-bay-wide, single-pile house has been significantly altered by the circa 1970 construction of a full-width wood frame addition clad in vinyl siding with an asphalt-shingled shed roof and solid cinderblock foundation. The first story of the main block has been obscured by this addition, which features a sash-and-paneled single-leaf wood door. Two 1/1 vinyl windows flank the entry, while a central one-light fixed window flanked by two 1/1 windows also pierce this addition. The main block, visible on the second story, is pierced by three 1/1 vinyl windows. All façade openings have vinyl surrounds and sills. Banked into the hillside, this building features a foundation-level shed-roofed addition on its rear elevation. Three historic outbuildings, including a circa 1800 ice house, circa 1910 privy, and circa 1910 corncrib, are also located on the property.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-0026

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Thomas Hartley House (preferred)

other

2. Location

street and number 8621 Wrights Mill Road not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Elwood A. Higgs, Jr. and Betty Lou Higgs

street and number 8621 Wrights Mill Road telephone Not Available

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21244

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 5239 folio 273

city, town Towson tax map 87 tax parcel 569 tax ID number 1600005240

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-0026

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Constructed in 1800, the Thomas Hartley House is a two-and-a-half-story vernacular dwelling of solid random rubble stone construction with a side gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. Two interior stretcher bond brick chimneys rise from the gable ends of the building. The façade, or northwest elevation, of the three-bay-wide, single-pile house has been significantly altered by the circa 1970 construction of a full-width wood frame addition clad in vinyl siding with an asphalt-shingled shed roof and solid cinderblock foundation. The first story of the main block has been obscured by this addition, which features a sash-and-paneled single-leaf wood door. Two 1/1 vinyl windows flank the entry, while a central one-light fixed window flanked by two 1/1 windows also pierce this addition. The main block, visible on the second story, is pierced by three 1/1 vinyl windows. All façade openings have vinyl surrounds and sills. Banked into the hillside, this building features a foundation-level shed-roofed addition on its rear elevation.

Three historic outbuildings, including an ice house, privy, and corncrib, are also located on the property. Banked into the hillside is the circa 1800 ice house, a two-story, one-bay-square building with a pyramidal roof clad in asphalt shingles. The random rubble stone masonry first story supports a wood frame second story structural system that is clad in plywood. One flush plywood door pierces this second story.

The privy, which dates to circa 1910, is a one-story, one-bay-square wood frame structure clad in flush vertical board siding with a shed roof clad in wood shingles. The façade of the deteriorated structure is pierced by a flush vertical board single-leaf wood door.

The circa 1910 corncrib, of wood frame construction clad in flush vertical board siding, is one story tall with a front gable roof clad in wood shingles. The structure has severely deteriorated.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-0026

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1800-1950 ca. **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1800

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Thomas Hartley House, constructed near the town of Granite in 1800, is well representative of the many vernacular stone houses constructed throughout Baltimore County in the early 19th century. Granite, in the Second District, is located along Old Court Road, just north of the Patapsco Falls. The district covers 44.79 square-miles and was historically known for its fertile soils, chrome mines, and abundant granite quarries. The quarries within the southern portion of the district gave the town its name.¹ The waterpower from the nearby Patapsco River and Falls also contributed to a number of manufacturing outlets, including the Valley G&S Mill, the Alberton Cotton Mills, and the Alberton Manufacturing Company. Thus the area became one of the most flourishing in the county. By the 1870s, Granite had reached a population of over 500 in the 1870s.

It was during this 19th century period that Hartley family, of Quaker heritage, constructed the Thomas Hartley House. This is one of three extant dwellings in the immediate area that are associated with the Hartley family.² The granite used in the construction of the structure was likely mined at one of the local granite quarries for which the Second District is noted. In the 1830s, the location of the granite quarries led to the establishment of a two-mile long spur of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which led directly into the town, enabling the companies to ship large slabs of stone easily. The setting of the Thomas Hartley House has remained rural through the late 20th century.

¹ "Granite National Historic District," located on the Internet at www.bcpl.net/~granhist/natlhistoric.html on October 11, 2000.

² The other two Hartley family dwellings are the circa 1743 John Humphrey House (BA-0025) and the 1808 Samuel Hartley House (BA-0027).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-0026

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .10 Acre

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Ellicott City

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1800, the Thomas Hartley House has been associated with the 1.12 acres of land known as tax parcel 569 of map 87 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	May 10, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

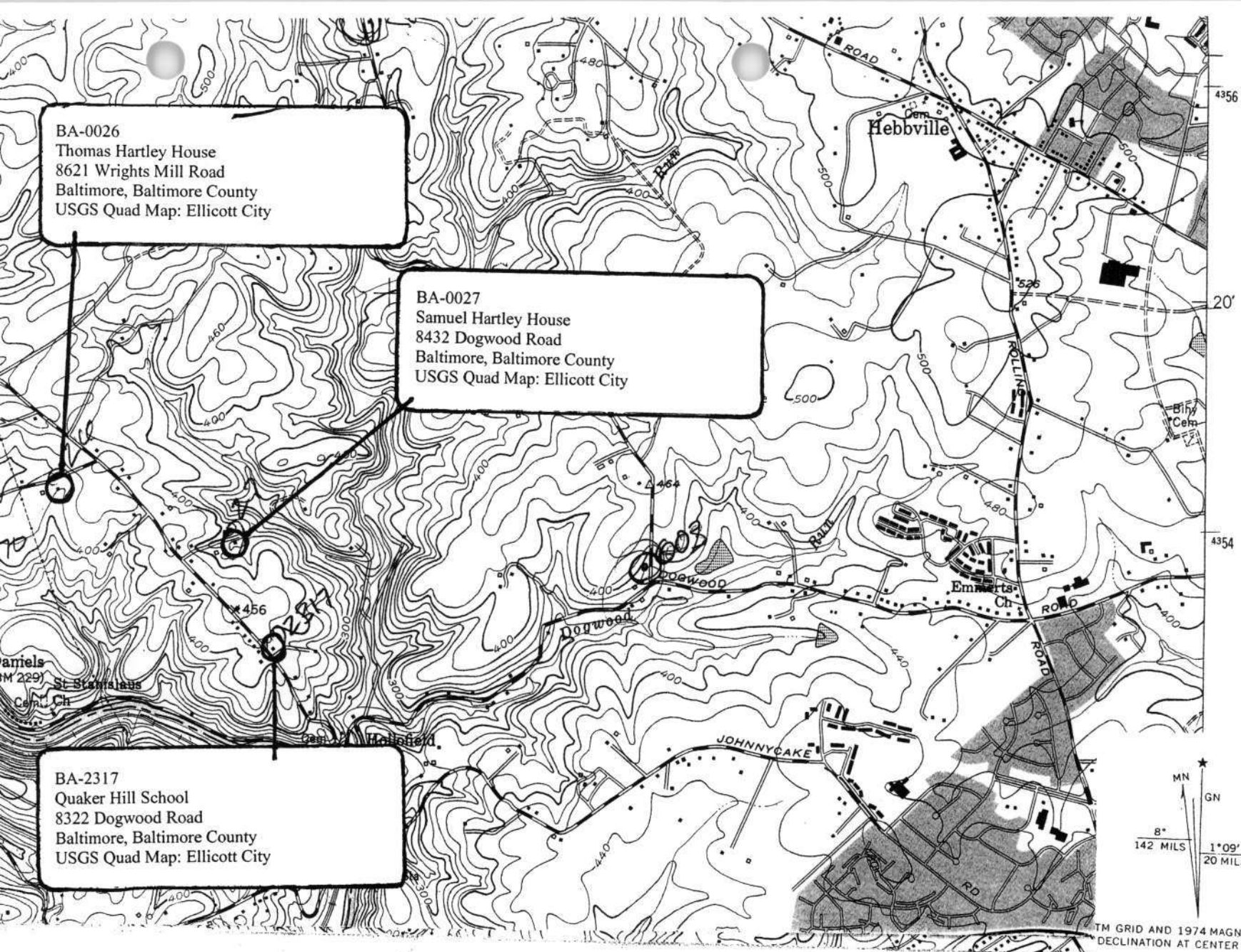
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

BA-0026
Thomas Hartley House
8621 Wrights Mill Road
Baltimore, Baltimore County
USGS Quad Map: Ellicott City

BA-0027
Samuel Hartley House
8432 Dogwood Road
Baltimore, Baltimore County
USGS Quad Map: Ellicott City

BA-2317
Quaker Hill School
8322 Dogwood Road
Baltimore, Baltimore County
USGS Quad Map: Ellicott City





BA-0026

8621 WRIGHTS MILL ROAD, BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

N. CORNER

1 of 2



BA-0016

8621 WRIGHTS MILL ROAD, BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SAPO

S. CORNER

2 of 2

BA-26

1800

Harley House

8261 Wrights Mill Road

south side, 0.2 mile west

of Dogwood Road,

west of Woodlawn and Security

This three-story high, three-bay wide fieldstone house was built in a vernacular style. A very tall house, it includes a basement kitchen (now closed off) which had opened to the rear at ground level. A gun cabinet is built into the fireplace wall. A very strongly built house, it was in poor condition at the time of the 1965 report. The owner was G. Edwin Kahler.

0300265304

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore TOWN Quaker Hill VICINITY Dist. II STREET NO. Wrights Mill Road ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE WALL CONSTRUCTION NO. OF STORIES		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY BA-26	
		2. NAME Hartley House DATE OR PERIOD 1800 STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER	
		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION			
OPEN TO PUBLIC			
<p>Fieldstone, three-story house, including basement kitchen, opening to rear on ground level. Gun cabinet built in fireplace wall. Strongly built house originally, now in poor condition.</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE			
Endangered Interior Exterior			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)			
7. PHOTOGRAPH			
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER (First HABS Report) E. Frances Offutt HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY DATE OF RECORD July 29, 1965	